

Members

Sen. Potch Wheeler, Chairperson
Sen. Becky Skillman
Sen. Allie Craycraft
Sen. James Lewis
Rep. Markt Lytle
Rep. Dale Strurtz
Rep. Richard Mangus
Rep. Phyllis Pond



NATURAL RESOURCES STUDY COMMITTEE

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Authority: IC 2-5-5-1

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 26, 2000
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: Garrison House, Fort Harrison State Park,
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 5

Members Present: Sen. Potch Wheeler, Chairperson; Sen. Becky Skillman; Sen. James Lewis; Rep. Markt Lytle; Rep. Richard Mangus; Rep. Dale Strurtz.

Members Absent: Sen. Allie Craycraft; Rep. Phyllis Pond.

Sen. Wheeler called the meeting of the Natural Resources Study Committee (Committee) to order at 10:20 a.m. After introductions by the members of the Committee, Sen. Wheeler called upon Rep. William Friend to testify.

Rep. William Friend, Indiana House District 23

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Rep. Friend explained to the Committee his reasons for introducing HB 1163-2000. Many people keep wild animals in their homes as pets. Even when wild animals are raised as young animals they still possess their natural wild behaviors. As these animals grow older many become aggressive. People who have wild animals should be required to keep them in humane conditions. Some of these animals are released by their owners into rural and other natural areas in Indiana. Rep. Friend told of several instances where wild animals had been released, including instances where livestock had been killed. The proposed legislation would have given the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) more authority to regulate these wild animals than DNR can through existing administrative rules.

Committee members discussed other instances where wild animals were released by their owners.

Larry Macklin, Director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), stated that the department would work with Rep. Friend on any legislation in this area.

The Committee recommended that Rep. Friend develop legislation to regulate the possession and treatment of wild and exotic animals.

Steve Rilenge, Safari Club International

Mr. Rilenge provided the Committee with information concerning the Indiana Conservation Officers Youth Camp. Each year about 128 youth pass the boating and hunting classes offered by the youth camp. Currently, the camp is limited in the number of youth that can attend each year. Mr. Rilenge asked the Committee to provide for a full-time coordinator for the camp. This position could be combined with a public relations/education coordination position. Through increased efforts by DNR and various sportsmen's groups more youth can attend these camps. Conservation officers currently spend some paid time working at the camps and many officers also donate some of their own time to the camp.

Larry Macklin told the Committee that DNR would examine ways to expand the youth camp program.

The Committee recognized the importance of the Indiana Conservation Officer's Youth Camp and recommended that the issue continue to be studied to determine the best way to expand the camp program.

The Committee discussed and adopted the following non-legislative recommendations:

- That the Shafer-Freeman Lake project be completed and continue to be funded.
- That the Committee continue to study and review the issues concerning the registration and preservation of historic cemeteries.
- The Committee recognized that the present level of horse camps and trails at Indiana state parks do not meet the needs of Hoosiers who want to use these facilities. The Committee recommends that DNR study the feasibility of expanding or adding horse camps and trails at the various state parks. The Committee recommended that DNR have this information, on a state park by state park basis, available to the Committee for the 2001 interim.
- That more primitive camp grounds operated by DNR be expanded to full-service

camp grounds.

The Committee made the following legislative recommendations:

- The Committee endorsed legislation concerning Falconry and Trapping Issues (PD 3570) by a vote of 7-0.
- The Committee endorsed legislation (PD 3586) concerning an Automated Point of Sale System for Sporting Licenses by a vote of 8-0.
- The Committee recommended legislation (PD 3569) concerning Motorboat Titles by a vote of 6-0.
- The Committee recommended legislation (PDoc 1696.001, as amended) concerning the Indiana Forestry Reinvestment Board by a vote of 6-0.
- The Committee endorsed legislation (PD 3594, as amended) regarding various State Timber Matters by a vote of 6-0.

The Committee adopted a draft final report by a 6-0 vote.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.